

Technical Memorandum

To: Javier Toro

From: Wood Environmental and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Wood)

Date: September 19, 2022

Ref: Copper World Project – Stability Analyses on Primary Settling, Process Area Stormwater, Reclaim, and Raffinate Ponds



Executive Summary

This technical memorandum was prepared by Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Wood) to document the results of a series of stability analyses conducted to assess the slope stability of Primary Settling Pond, Process Area Stormwater Pond, Reclaim Pond, and Raffinate Pond. Two-dimensional (2D) limit equilibrium analyses were performed using Slide2 version 9.02 software (Rocscience, 2021) on three critical cross sections of the ponds. Stability analyses were performed following the same methodology and utilizing the same materials and model properties as previous stability analyses performed on the Tailings Storage Facilities (TSF), Waste Rock Facility, and Heap Leach Facility. Global minimum factor of safety (FoS) was calculated for static loading condition as well as pseudo-static loading condition. Results indicated that the FoS meet or exceed the selected acceptance criteria defined by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology (BADCT) manual (ADEQ, 2004) for all cross sections evaluated.

1 Introduction

Wood is providing engineering support for the Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) Application for the Copper World Project. The proposed project will be an open-pit copper mine with associated infrastructure facilities (i.e., heap leach, waste rock dumps, conventional tailings storage facility, auxiliary facilities, etc.) situated within the Santa Rita Mountains in Pima County, Arizona. The heap leach grading plan (prefeasibility study [PFS]-level) is shown in Figure A1 of Attachment 1. This grading plan includes layout of Primary Settling Pond, Process Area Stormwater Pond, Reclaim Pond, and Raffinate Pond.

Stability analyses in this project were performed utilizing three critical cross sections, herein referred to as S1, S2, and S3. Figure A2 and Figure A3 of Attachment 1 show the layout of the ponds along with the approximate location of these three cross sections. According to Figure A2 and Figure A3, the Primary Settling Pond has a slope of 3H:1V (horizontal to vertical ratio) and all other ponds have a slope of 2.5H:1V. All ponds will be lined with composite liner systems.

2 Stability Analyses

2.1. Models and Material properties

Schematics of Slide2 models, created for stability analyses, are shown in Figure 1. Process Area Stormwater Pond (cross section S1) as well as Reclaim and Raffinate Ponds (cross section S2) will be constructed via excavating waste rock and native foundation soil. For these ponds, stability analyses were performed on interior slopes of the ponds. Primary Settling Pond (cross section S3) will be constructed by excavation of Native Foundation Soil and placement of Embankment Fill Material. Stability analyses on Primary Settling Pond was also performed for the interior slopes

of the pond. The reason is the interior and exterior slopes have the same slopes (i.e. 3H:1V) and comparable height (Figure 1).

Material properties utilized in stability analyses were adopted from the previous stability analyses memorandums for Heap Leach, Waste Rock Facility, and Tailings Storage Facility (Wood, 2021a; Wood, 2022a & b). According to these memorandums, native foundation soil, waste rock, and embankment fill are expected to have drained behavior during the shear (i.e., no excess pore water pressure during loading) considering their gradation and their USCS (Unified Soil Classification System) description. Therefore, only drained (i.e., effective-stress) stability analysis was performed in this study. The summary of material properties is tabulated in Table 1.

In these models, groundwater table has not been considered as it is beyond influence depths for stability evaluation in accordance with Wood (2021b).

Table 1. Summary of material properties for slope stability analyses

Material	Unit Weight (pcf)	Effective-stress Friction Angle, f' (°)	Effective-stress Cohesion, C' (psf)
Foundation	125	36	0
Embankment Fill	125	36	0
Waste Rock	125	37	0

2.2. Methodology

Two-dimensional limit equilibrium analyses were performed using the software Slide2 to evaluate the stability of ponds in each cross section. Slide2 is capable of performing various limit equilibrium analyses such as Simplified Bishop method, Spencer's method, Morgenstern-Price method, and several others (Rocscience 2021).

Stability analyses of this project were performed assuming ponds in dry condition. The reasons are:

- Ponds are lined with a composite liner system. Assuming the integrity of liner system, phreatic surface cannot be developed within the embankment and native ground even when the ponds are filled with stormwater or process solution.
- It is conservative to model slope stability of lined ponds without any stored liquids in them since the stored liquid will act as a buttress for slopes, oppose the slope failure mechanism, and enhance the overall stability of slopes.

For this project, Spencer's methods (Spencer, 1967) was used, which is a method of slices (consideration of potential failure masses as rigid bodies divided into adjacent regions or "slices," separated by vertical boundary planes) that satisfies both moment and force equilibrium. In this method, the shear strengths that would be required to just maintain equilibrium along the selected failure plane is calculated, and then the safety factor is determined by dividing the available shear strength by the equilibrium shear stress. Consequently, calculated safety factors indicate the percentage by which the available shear strength exceeds, or falls short of, that required to maintain equilibrium. Safety factors, obtained from stability analyses, in excess of 1.0 indicate a stable slope and those less than 1.0 indicate instability. The greater the mathematical difference between a safety factor greater than 1.0 and 1.0, the larger the margin of safety. For safety factors less than 1.0, the difference indicates the margin of instability.

Stability analyses in this study were performed considering both static and pseudo-static loading conditions to determine critical failure surfaces and their corresponding factors of safety for all slopes of the ponds. Pseudo-static-based analyses are commonly used to apply equivalent seismic loading on earth fill structures as a screening

tool. In an actual seismic event, the peak acceleration would be sustained for only a fraction of a second. Actual seismic time histories are characterized by multiple-frequency attenuating motions. The accelerations produced by seismic events rapidly reverse motion and generally tend to build to a peak acceleration that quickly decays to lesser accelerations. Consequently, the duration that a mass is subjected to a unidirectional, peak seismic acceleration is finite, rather than infinite. The pseudo-static analyses conservatively model seismic events as constant acceleration and direction (i.e., an infinitely long pulse).

Therefore, it is customary for geotechnical engineers to take only a fraction of the predicted peak maximum site acceleration when modeling seismic events using pseudo-static analyses (Hynes-Griffin and Franklin, 1984). In this project, a pseudo-static coefficient of 0.04g, which is 1/2 of the design Peak Ground Acceleration (PGA) of 0.07g (corresponding to the 2,475-year return period), was adopted from previous slope stability memorandum (Wood, 2021a; Wood, 2022a&b).

Stability analyses were performed for circular, non-circular, and composite surfaces. Several search routines were used to locate the failure surface with the lowest FoS. These methods provide powerful algorithms in which the search for the lowest safety factor is refined as the analysis progresses. An iterative approach is used, so that the results of one iteration are used to narrow the search area on the slope in the next iteration. The auto-refine search routine was shown to consistently locate the failure surface having the lowest FoS, defined as the critical failure surface.

Overall, stability analyses in this project are comparable to previous stability analyses on Heap Leach Facility, Waste Rock Facility, and Tailings Storage Facilities in terms of methodology and material properties.

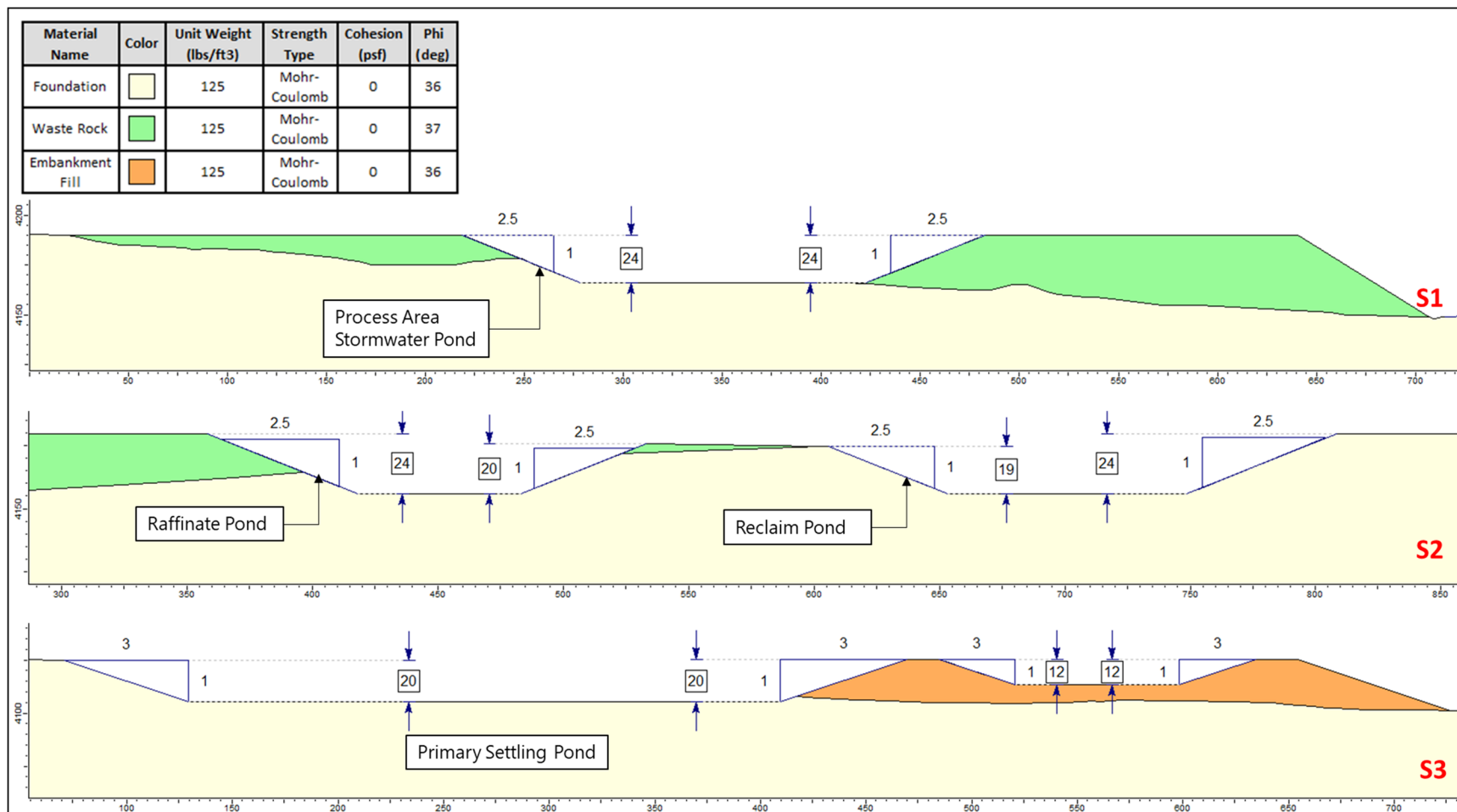


Figure 1. Schematics of Slide2 models of cross sections S1, S2, and S3

2.3. Results

Results of slope stability analyses are shown in Attachment 2. Figures B1 to B16 of Attachment 2 show critical failure surfaces and their corresponding FoS for cross sections S1 to S3 under various analysis scenarios. FoS values resulted from the analyses are also tabulated in Table 2. In this table, the minimum recommended factors of safety according to BADCT (ADEQ, 2004) for static and pseudo-static analyses are also included for comparison. According to Table 2, the FoS values meet or exceed the BADCT criteria for slope stability.

Table 2. Global minimum factor of safety (FoS) from stability analyses

Facility	Cross Section	Static Analyses			Pseudo-Static Analyses		
		Failure Direction		Min BADCT Requirement	Failure Direction		Min BADCT Requirement
		West-East	East-West		West-East	East-West	
Process Area Stormwater Pond	S1	1.9	1.8	1.3	1.7	1.6	1.0
Reclaim Pond	S2	1.8	1.8		1.6	1.6	
Raffinate Pond	S2	1.9	1.8		1.7	1.6	
Primary Settling Pond	S3	2.2	2.2		1.9	1.9	

3 Summary

A series of slope stability analyses were performed using the software Slide2 (version 9.02) on three cross sections, intersecting the Primary Settling Pond, Process Area Stormwater Pond, Reclaim Pond, and Raffinate Pond. Stability analyses were performed following the same methodology and utilizing the same materials and model properties as previous stability analyses performed on the Tailings Storage Facilities (TSF), Waste Rock Facility, and Heap Leach Facility. Analyses were performed under both static and pseudo-static loading scenarios on different ponds slopes. The result of the stability analyses indicated that the global minimum factor of safety meet or exceed the BADCT criteria for slope stability under static loading and pseudo-static loading condition.

4 References

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- Morgenstern, N. R. and Price, V. E. (1967). The Analysis of the Stability of General Slip Surfaces. Geotechnique, Vol. 15, No. 1 pp. 77-93
- Rocscience (2021). SLIDE2, 2D limit equilibrium slope stability for soil and rock slopes. 2021 Rocscience Inc, Slope Stability Verification Manual, Toronto, Canada
- Spencer, E. (1967). A Method of Analysis of the Stability of Embankments Assuming Parallel Interslice Forces. Geotechnique, London
- Wood (2021a). Stability Analysis Memorandum, Waste Rock Facility. Prepared for Rosemont Copper Company by Wood, November 29, 2022.



Wood (2021b). Geotechnical Site Investigation Memorandum, Heap Leach, Tailings and Waste Rock Facilities, Rosemont Copper World Project, prepared for Rosemont Copper Company, by Wood, December 1.

Wood (2022a). Stability Analysis Memorandum, Tailings Storage Facility. Prepared for Rosemont Copper Company by Wood, January 14, 2022.

Wood (2022b). Stability Analysis Memorandum, Heap Leach Facility (HLF). Prepared for Rosemont Copper Company by Wood, March 24, 2022.

Attachment 1: Grading Plan and Ponds Layout

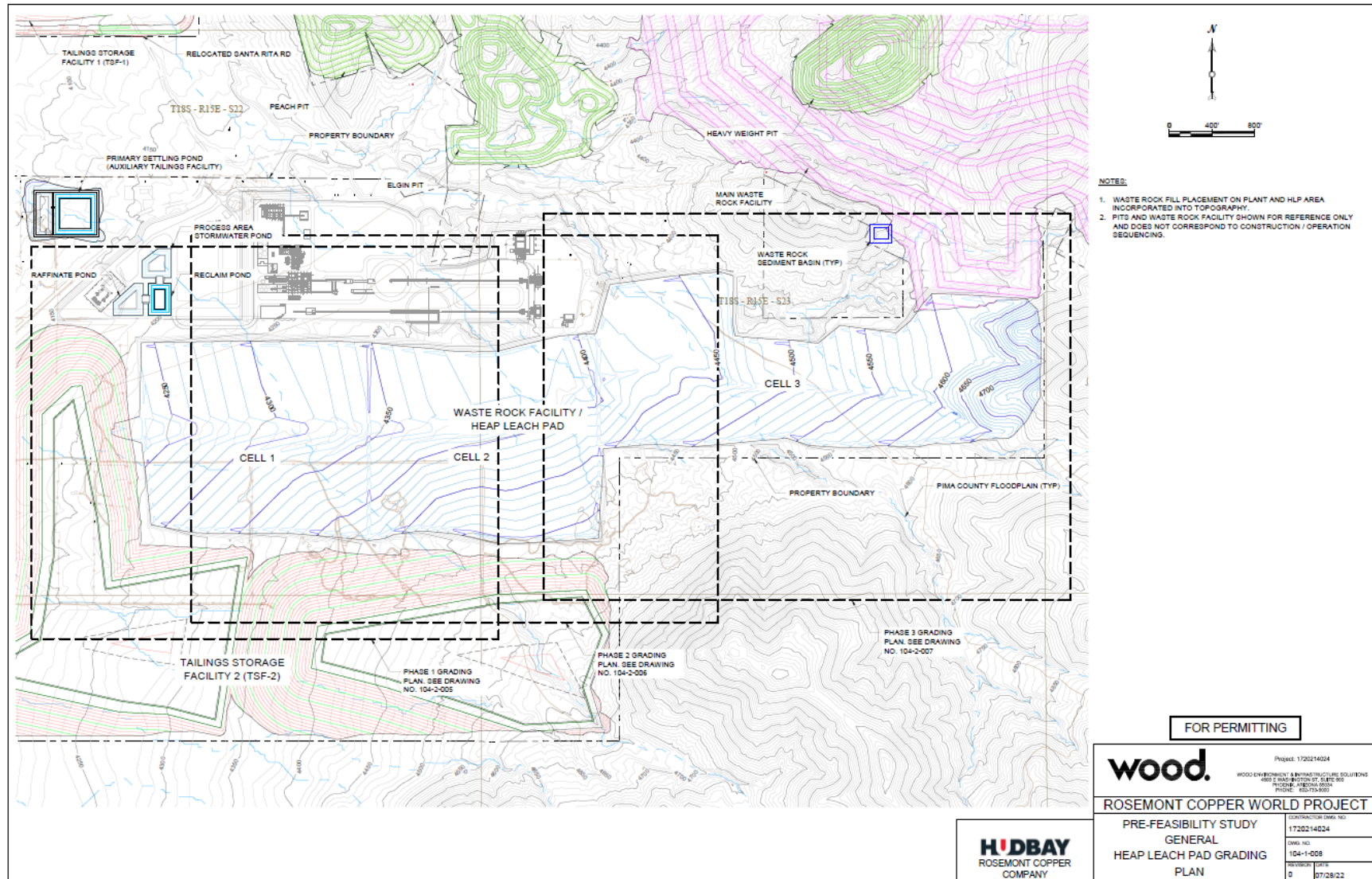


Figure A1. General Heap Leach Pad Grading Plan showing the location of different ponds

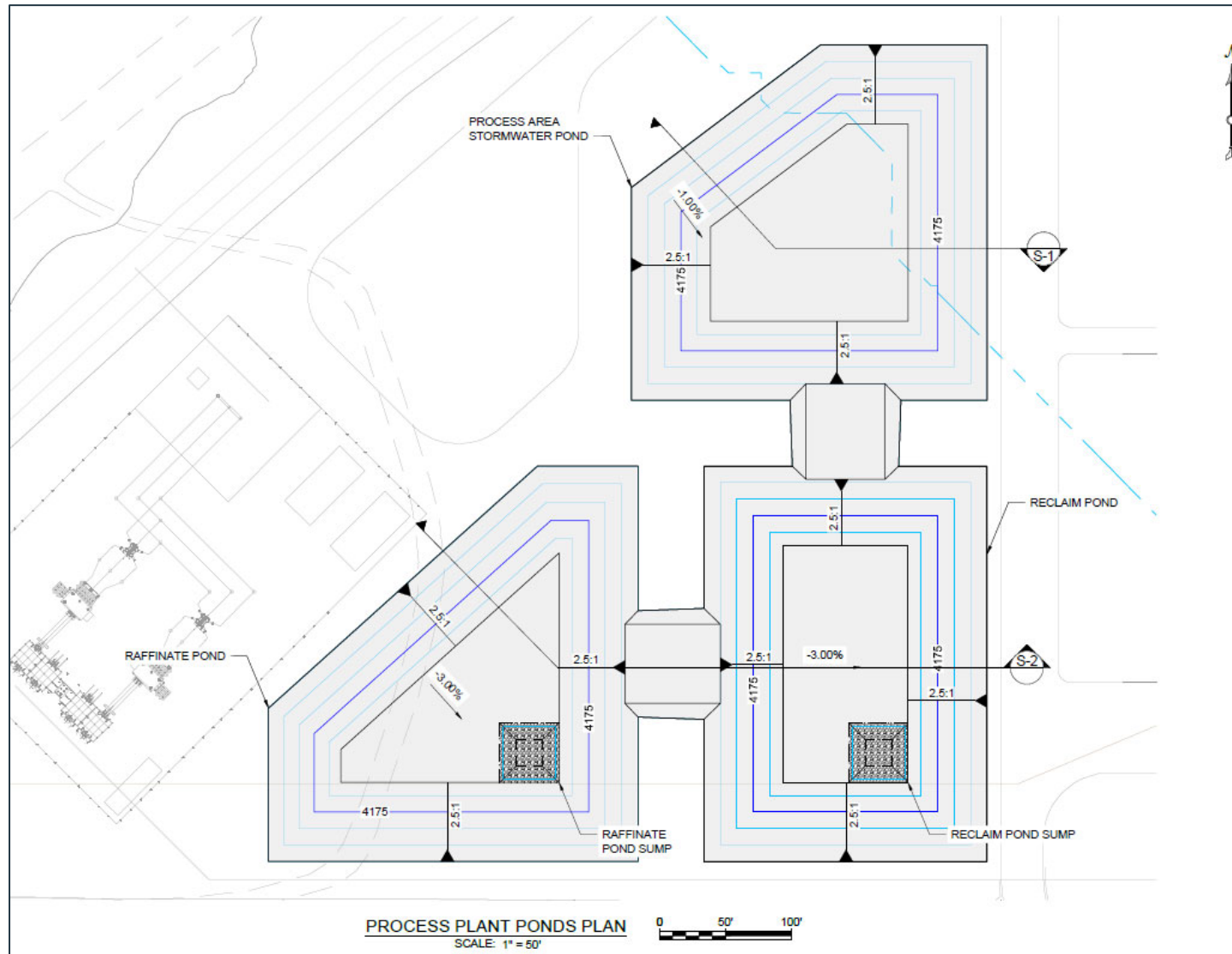


Figure A2. Location of cross sections S1 and S2 within Process Area Stormwater Pond, Reclaim Pond, and Raffinate Pond

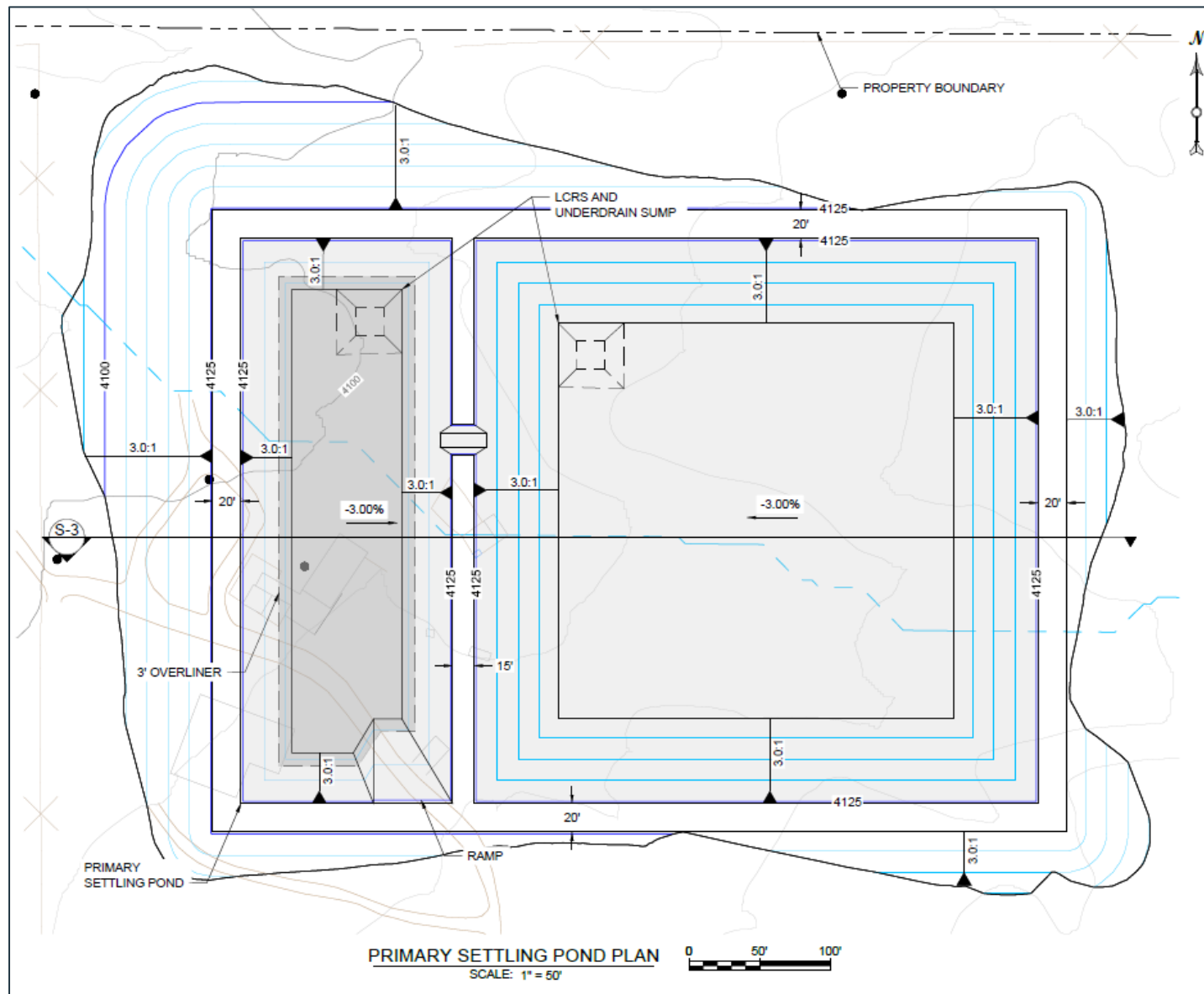


Figure A3. Location of cross sections S3 within Primary Settling Pond

Attachment 2: Stability Analysis

